

**PROPOSED CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS
SENATE JOINT RESOLUTIONS**

**PROPOSING A CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT
AUTHORIZING THE LEGISLATURE TO PROVIDE FOR AN
EXEMPTION FROM AD VALOREM TAXATION OF ALL OR
PART OF THE MARKET VALUE OF THE RESIDENCE
HOMESTEAD OF THE SURVIVING SPOUSE OF A FIRST
RESPONDER WHO IS KILLED OR FATALLY INJURED IN THE
LINE OF DUTY**

S.J.R. No. 1

A JOINT RESOLUTION

proposing a constitutional amendment authorizing the legislature to provide for an exemption from ad valorem taxation of all or part of the market value of the residence homestead of the surviving spouse of a first responder who is killed or fatally injured in the line of duty.

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE Legislature of the State of Texas:

SECTION 1. Section 1-b, Article VIII, Texas Constitution, is amended by adding Subsections (o) and (p) to read as follows:

(o) The legislature by general law may provide that the surviving spouse of a first responder who is killed or fatally injured in the line of duty is entitled to an exemption from ad valorem taxation of all or part of the market value of the surviving spouse's residence homestead if the surviving spouse has not remarried since the death of the first responder. The legislature by general law may define "first responder" for purposes of this subsection and may prescribe additional eligibility requirements for the exemption authorized by this subsection.

(p) The legislature by general law may provide that a surviving spouse who qualifies for and receives an exemption in accordance with Subsection (o) of this section and who subsequently qualifies a different property as the surviving spouse's residence homestead is entitled to an exemption from ad valorem taxation of the subsequently qualified homestead in an amount equal to the dollar amount of the exemption from ad valorem taxation of the first homestead for which the exemption was received in accordance with Subsection (o) of this section in the last year in which the surviving spouse received the exemption in accordance with that subsection for that homestead if the surviving spouse has not remarried since the death of the first responder.

SECTION 2. The following temporary provision is added to the Texas Constitution:

TEMPORARY PROVISION. (a) This temporary provision applies to the constitutional amendment proposed by the 85th Legislature, Regular Session, 2017, authorizing the legislature to provide for an exemption from ad valorem taxation of all or part of the market value of the residence homestead of the surviving spouse of a first responder who is killed or fatally injured in the line of duty.

(b) Sections 1-b(o) and (p), Article VIII, of this constitution take effect January 1, 2018, and apply only to a tax year beginning on or after that date.

(c) This temporary provision expires January 1, 2019.

SECTION 3. This proposed constitutional amendment shall be submitted to the voters at an election to be held November 7, 2017. The ballot shall be printed to permit voting for or against the proposition: "The constitutional amendment authorizing the legislature to provide for an exemption from ad valorem taxation of all or part of the market value of the residence homestead of the surviving spouse of a first responder who is killed or fatally injured in the line of duty."

Adopted by the Senate on March 13, 2017: Yeas 30, Nays 0; adopted by the House on May 23, 2017: Yeas 147, Nays 0, two present not voting.

Filed with the Secretary of State May 25, 2017.

**APPLYING TO THE CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES TO
CALL A CONVENTION UNDER ARTICLE V OF THE UNITED
STATES CONSTITUTION FOR THE LIMITED PURPOSE OF
PROPOSING ONE OR MORE AMENDMENTS TO THE
CONSTITUTION TO IMPOSE FISCAL RESTRAINTS ON THE
FEDERAL GOVERNMENT, TO LIMIT THE POWER AND
JURISDICTION OF THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT, AND TO
LIMIT THE TERMS OF OFFICE OF FEDERAL OFFICIALS
AND MEMBERS OF CONGRESS**

S.J.R. No. 2

A JOINT RESOLUTION

applying to the Congress of the United States to call a convention under Article V of the United States Constitution for the limited purpose of proposing one or more amendments to the constitution to impose fiscal restraints on the federal government, to limit the power and jurisdiction of the federal government, and to limit the terms of office of federal officials and members of Congress.

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

WHEREAS, The drafters of the United States Constitution empowered state legislatures to be guardians of liberty against abuses of power by the federal government; and

WHEREAS, The federal government has abused its power by creating a crushing national debt through improper and imprudent spending; and

WHEREAS, The federal government has abused its power by invading the legitimate role of the states through the manipulative process of federal mandates that are to a great extent unfunded; and

WHEREAS, The federal government has ceased to abide by a proper interpretation of the United States Constitution; and

WHEREAS, It is the solemn duty of state legislatures to protect the liberty of the people and of future generations by proposing amendments to the United States Constitution that place clear restraints on federal power; and

WHEREAS, Article V of the United States Constitution authorizes the several state legislatures to restrict the power of the federal government through the amendment process; and

WHEREAS, Article V of the United States Constitution provides that on application of the legislatures of two-thirds of the several states Congress shall call a convention for the purpose of proposing amendments to the constitution; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the 85th Texas Legislature apply to Congress to call a convention